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# REMARKS

UPON A

# LETTER to the PRINTER

OF THE

# *BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE,*

Dated OCTOBER 14, 1791,

And alſo upon a *Letter* addreſſed to the *Inhabitants*

# OF WARWICK,

*Dated* AUGUST 8, 1791,

BY


WILLIAM FIELD,

MINISTER of the *Diſſenting Congregation* Aſſembling in the *High-Street*, WARWICK.

By R. MILLER, VICAR. and H. LAUGHARNE, *Curate*, of St. *Nicholas*, WARWICK.



WARWICK:
Printed by J. SHARP, and Sold by Meſſrs. RIVINGTONS, St. Paul's Church-Yard, *London*.

BRITISH MUSEUM

# REMARKS, &c.

A Letter addreſſed to the Printer of the Birmingham Gazette, dated OCTOBER 14th 1791, containing injurious Reflections upon our Characters and Conduct, having been publiſhed by *William Field*, Miniſter of the Diſſenting Congregation aſſembling in the HIGH-STREET in this Borough, We think it incumbent upon us to lay before the Publick the following Particulars, by which it may be judged how far the ſaid Reflections are founded in Truth and Juſtice.

It is neceſſary to premiſe, that in the Letter abovementioned, *Mr. Miller* is charged by *Mr. Field* with endeavouring, with the Aſſiſtance of his Curate, to undermine the Diſſenting Sunday School by concealed and diſhonourable Methods. As an Inſtance of this Conduct, He aſſerts, that *Mr. Miller* applied to the Parents of two Children of the Name of *Penn*, who had been admitted into the Diſſenting School, and "*offered* "*them Money*, upon the expreſs Condi-"tion, that their Children ſhould be taken "from the School;" that failing in this Offer, "He next proceeded to try the Effect of "*cruel Threats*, declaring, that if his Will "was not obeyed, and the Children with-"drawn from the Diſſenting School, both "Parents and Children ſhould be turned "out of the Pariſh!"

To this ſerious and heavy Charge we oppoſe the following Affidavit of the Parents themſelves.

*Borough*

*Borough of Warwick in the County of Warwick.*

THE voluntary Affidavit of *William Penn,* and *Suſannah* his Wife, of the Pariſh of *Saint Nicholas* in the Borough of WARWICK aforeſaid, Labourer; Sworn before *George Cattell,* Eſq: Mayor of the ſaid Borough, on the Tenth Day of November, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

THE ſaid *William Penn* and *Suſannah* his Wife, upon their Oath each ſpeaking for himſelf and herſelf reſpectively ſeverally ſay, that they were reſpectively bred up to the Church of England, and are now Members thereof. THAT a ſhort Time ſince two of their Sons went to the Preſbyterian Sunday School in WARWICK. And theſe Deponents further ſeverally reſpectively ſay, That the Rev. *Mr. Miller* never offered either

ther of theſe Deponents any money on any Occaſion whatſoever, nor uſed any Threats of any Kind to induce them to take their Children from the Preſbyterian Sunday School; nor did the ſaid *Mr. Miller* ever apply to either of theſe Deponents ſo to do. And theſe Deponents do each ſpeaking for himſelf and herſelf further reſpectively ſay, that He the ſaid *William Penn* did not, and that She the ſaid *Suſannah Penn* did not ever tell *Mr. Field* the Preſbyterian Miniſter or any other Perſon, that the ſaid *Mr. Miller* had ever offered any Money, or uſed any Threats, or any other Means, to induce theſe Deponents, or either of them, to take their Children from the Preſbyterian Sunday School.

Sworn before me
*George Cattell* MAYOR

The Mark of
×
*William Penn.*
The Mark of
×
*Suſannah Penn.*

We now beg Leave to call the Attention of the Publick to a Letter of *Mr. Field*, addreſſed upon the 8th of AUGUST laſt to the Inhabitants of WARWICK. As the Conduct of *Mr. Miller* is therein groſsly miſrepreſented, it may ſeem extrarodinary that He has ſo long deferred to take Notice of it. He therefore wiſhes it to be underſtood, that as this Letter was publickly read, and refuted to the Satisfaction of a numerous and reſpectable Body of the Inhabitants, aſſembled at the Court-Houſe, He conſidered it as fully anſwered by the Reſolutions adopted at that Meeting.

However, as He is now addreſſing the Publick in his Vindication, He will take the Opportunity of making a few Remarks upon ſome Aſſertions, contained in the ſaid Letter. In one Part of it, *Mr. Field* ſays that "the Diſſenters may ſafely give the Chal-"lenge to *Mr. Miller* or to any other Per-"ſon, to produce a ſingle Inſtance of a Child

"admitted into their School, who did not "come without any previous Solicitation "whatever."

In Anſwer to this the Publick will pleaſe to attend to the Depoſitions of *Mary Pittaway* and *Elizabeth Underhill.*

*Borough of Warwick in the County of Warwick.*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Mary Pittaway* Wife of *Thomas Pittaway* of the Pariſh of *St. Nicholas* in the Borough of WARWICK aforeſaid, Labourer—And *Elizabeth Underhill,* Wife of *Joſeph Underhill* of the ſame Pariſh, Labourer; Sworn before *Geo. Cattell* Eſq; Mayor of the ſaid Borough on the Tenth Day of *November,* One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

THE

THE ſaid *Mary Pittaway* on her Oath ſaith, that She was bred up to the Church of England, and that She and her ſaid Huſband are now Members thereof — That on laſt Whit-Monday one *Mrs. Sandford*, of the Pariſh of *St. Nicholas* in the ſaid Borough, came to this Deponent, and told her that if She would let her Children go to the Preſbyterian Sunday School, each of them would have a Cap & Tippet, and be taken good care of — AND the ſaid *Elizabeth Underhill* on her Oath ſaith, that in a few Days after Whit-Monday laſt *Mrs. Parkes*, Wife of *Mr. John Parkes* of the ſaid Borough, Mercer, came to the Houſe where this Deponent, and the ſaid *Mary Pittaway* reſide, and told this Deponent that She the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* would be glad to ſpeak with the ſaid *Mary Pittaway* at her the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes'* Houſe — That this Deponent accordingly informed the ſaid *Mary Pittaway*, when She returned Home, what the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* ſaid — And the ſaid *Mary Pittaway* on her Oath further ſaith,

that

that in a few Days afterwards She went to the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes*, who told this Deponent. that if She would let her Daughters come to the Preſbyterian Sunday School, they ſhould each of them have a Cap & Tippet on their Entrance, and that in about a week or fortnight they ſhould each of them have a Gown, half the Price of which Gown this Deponent was to pay, and the other half the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes*. And the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* at the ſame Time aſked this Deponent to go to the Preſbyterian Meeting herſelf—That in Conſequence of what *Mrs. Parkes* ſaid, She this Deponent ſent two of her Daughters to the Preſbyterian Sunday School on the next Sunday, and they each of them had a Cap & Tippet given them, as they informed this Deponent; but She did not go herſelf to the Meeting —That in a ſhort Time afterwards this Deponent's ſaid Daughters informed her, that the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* deſired them to aſk this Deponent and her Huſband, why they did not attend at the Meeting, and told them that it was

moſt

moſt proper the Parents ſhould attend where the Children went—And this Deponent *Mary Pittaway* further ſaith, that She had no thoughts of ſending her Children to the Preſbyterian Sunday School, until She was aſked ſo to do by the ſaid *Mrs. Sandford*, and the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes*—And further ſaith, that on her taking her children from the ſaid Sunday School, the Cap and Tippet each of them had received were taken from them.

Sworn before me
*George Cattell*, MAYOR.

The Mark of
×
*Mary Pittaway.*

The Mark of
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*Elizabeth Underhill.*

IN another Part of the Letter, where *Mr. Field* endeavours to exculpate the Diſſenters from the Charge of ſeducing Parents from the Communion of the Church of England, He alledges, that their View "is not to raiſe

"raiſe one religious Society at the Expence "of another, but to bring to a Place of Wor- "ſhip thoſe, who are accuſtomed to attend "no Place of Public Worſhip at all."

Of the Truth of this Aſſertion the Public will judge from the following Depoſitions.

*Borough* of *Warwick in the County of Warwick.*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Ann Canning* Wife of *William Canning* of the Pariſh of *Saint Nicholas* in the Borough of Warwick aforeſaid, Labourer; Sworn before *George Cattell* Eſq. Mayor of the ſaid Borough, on the Tenth Day of November, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and ninety one.

THE

THE ſaid *Ann Canning* on her Oath ſaith; That ſhe & her Huſband are Members of the Church of England. That She had two Children at the Preſbyterian Sunday School for a conſiderable Time, but they have not attended it for the laſt half Year. That in the Courſe of the Time her Children went to the ſaid School, *Mrs. Parkes* Wife of *Mr. John Parkes* of the ſaid Borough, Mercer, called upon this Deponent and aſked this Deponent if She would oblige her *(Mrs. Parkes)* by going to the Preſbyterian Meeting, and deſired her (this Deponent) to aſk her Huſband to go there, and told her that if ſhe went, She ſhould have a Penny a Time, and if regular in her Attendance ſome other little Charities. That this Deponent deſired Time to conſider of it. And the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* ſent her (this Deponent) ſome Tickets and a Book, and that upon reading ſuch Book, and weighing the whole Matter, this Deponent determined not to go to the Meeting. And this Deponent further ſaith that the ſaid *Mrs.*

*Parkes*

*Parkes* called a ſecond Time on this Deponent, and aſked her why She did not attend the Meeting, that this Deponent in Anſwer ſaid, She had been bred up to the Church, was chriſtened in the Church, conſtantly attended the Church, and frequently received the Sacrament, and thought it would be a wicked Thing to leave the Church. That the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* ſtill preſſed this Deponent to go to Meeting, obſerving to her that ſhe (*Mrs. Parkes*) did not wiſh her (this Deponent) to receive the Sacrament at the Meeting at preſent, but She *Mrs. Parkes* was ſure in Time this Deponent would like the Diſſenting Form of Worſhip better & better. That on this Deponent ſtill refuſing to go to Meeting, *Mrs. Parkes* with ſome Warmth aſked this Deponent, How She could think they would take any Care of, or pay any Attention, to her this Deponent's Children, if She would not go to Meeting? This Deponent then ſaid, You may do as you pleaſe Madam. That this Deponent never went but once to the Meeting

ing in all her Life, and that about a Year and a Half ago.

*Ann Canning.*

Sworn before me
*George Cattell* MAYOR.

*Borough of Warwick in the County of Warwick.*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Elizabeth Sutton*, Wife of *Richard Sutton* of the Pariſh of *Saint Nicholas* in the Borough of WARWICK aforeſaid, Labourer; Sworn before *George Cattell* Eſq. Mayor of the ſaid Borough on the Tenth of November, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

THE ſaid *Elizabeth Sutton* upon her Oath ſaith, That She was bred up to the Church of England, And that She and her ſaid Huſband

band are now Members thereof. That in the laſt and preſent Year She ſent one of her Sons to the Preſbyterian Sunday School in the ſaid Borough. That after this Deponent's Son had attended ſuch School ſome Time, *Mrs. Parkes* Wife of *Mr. John Parkes* of the ſaid Borough, Mercer, aſked this Deponent to attend the Preſbyterian Meeting. And that She then told the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* that She this Deponent and her Huſband had been bred up to the Church of England, and conſtantly went to Church. That the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* then preſſed this Deponent much to go to the Preſbyterian Meeting, and told her Bread was uſually diſtributed at the Meeting, but if ſhe would come, ſhe ſhould have her Share either in Money, or if She choſe it in Goods out of the Shop. That the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes* then gave this Deponent three Tickets for herſelf and her Huſband to come to the ſaid Meeting, and told her both of them muſt attend regularly if they could, if not, one of them muſt not

fail

fail, and deliver one of thoſe Tickets to the Clerk of the Meeting each Sunday, and that when the three Tickets were delivered in, they ſhould receive one penny for each Ticket, but that neither She nor her Huſband ever went.

Sworn before me
*George Cattell*, MAYOR.

The Mark of
×
*Elizabeth Sutton.*

*Borough of Warwick in the County of Warwick.*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Jonathan Hamp* of the Pariſh of *Saint Nicholas* in the Borough of Warwick, aforeſaid, Cordwainer; Sworn before *George Cattell* Eſq. Mayor of the ſaid Borough, on the tenth Day of November, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

THE ſaid *Jonathan Hamp* on his Oath ſaith, that he was bred up to the Church of England, and is now a Member thereof; That he had a Child who went a conſiderable time to the Preſbyterian Sunday-School, in the ſaid Borough, that in the courſe of the time his child attended ſuch School, *Mrs. Parkes* Wife of *Mr. John Parkes* of the ſaid Borough, Mercer, ſent for and aſked this Deponent what place of Worſhip he went to, That he told her he went for the moſt part regularly to Church, ſhe then aſked him if he had any objection to go to Meeting, at the ſame time informing him, there were little Charities which were intended to be beſtowed on the Parents of ſuch Children, as went to the ſaid School, if ſuch Parents attended the Meeting. And this Deponent further ſaith, that in conſequence of the offers and perſuaſions of the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes*, he ſometimes went to the Meeting, That in the courſe of attending the Meeting, the ſaid *Mr. John Parkes* aſked this Deponent if he would

would be Clerk to the Meeting, That this Deponent ſaid he muſt conſider of it, for if he accepted that place he ſuppoſed he muſt leave the Church and the ſaid *Mr. Parkes* in anſwer ſaid Yes, and then deſired to have an anſwer from this Deponent as ſoon as poſſible, And told him that he (the ſaid *Mr. Parkes)* would wiſh to give this Deponent ſome Cloaths, that he might appear Smart, and that there would be ſomething coming conſtantly into his Pocket, and this Deponent ſaith, that on conſideration and conſulting his Friends, he determined not to leave the Church, and therefore did not accept the Clerks place, and ſoon after took his Child away.

*Jonathan Hamp.*

Sworn before me
*George Cattell,* MAYOR.

*Borough of Warwick in the County of Warwick.*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Mary Beazeley*, Wife of *Jonathan Beazeley*, reſiding in the Pariſh of *St. Nicholas*, in the Borough of Warwick aforeſaid, Labourer; Sworn before *Geo. Cattell*, Eſq. Mayor of the ſaid Borough, on the Tenth Day of November, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

THE ſaid *Mary Beazeley* on her Oath, ſaith, that She has for ſome conſiderable Time lived in the Houſe of one *Jonathan Hamp*, That ſome Time in the Month of June laſt paſt, *Mrs. Parkes*, the Wife of *Mr. John Parkes*, of the ſaid Borough, Mercer, came to the ſaid Houſe and aſked this Deponent where *Jonathan Hamp* was, and on this Deponent informing *Mrs. Parkes*, that he was out at Work, She aſked

ed where *Mrs. Hamp* was, and on being told She was from Home, the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes*, aſked this Deponent, What was the reaſon why Mary, the Daughter of *Jonathan Hamp*, was taken from the Preſbyterian Sunday School, & why She went to Church? And then the ſaid *Mrs. Parkes*, ſaid what was the uſe of ſending her *there*; That it would do her no good, for there would be neither Church nor Steeple to be ſeen in a few Years.

Sworn before me
*George Cattell*, MAYOR.

The Mark of
×
*Mary Beazeley.*

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To theſe Proofs of *Mr. Field*'s Miſrepreſentation, many others might be added; but it is apprehended, that the Public will be ſufficiently enabled to form their Opinion of *Mr. Field*, and his Letters, from what

what has been produced. We ſhall however requeſt their farther Indulgence, whilſt we briefly ſtate the Conduct we have purſued, and the Principles upon which we have acted, in the Courſe of this Buſineſs.

Finding upon Enquiry, that the greater Part of the Diſſenting School conſiſted of the Children of Parents, profeſſing themſelves Members of the Church of England, and that Means were employed to ſeduce the Parents themſelves from the Church to the Meeting; We were led to conſult ſeveral Gentlemen of reſpectable Character upon the Subject; who united in Opinion, that it was the indiſpenſible Duty of the Clergy, to uſe their Endeavours to bring back both the Parents and their Children to the Communion, to which they originally belonged. Unwilling, at the ſame Time, to interrupt that Harmony and good Underſtanding, which had ſo long ſubſiſted between the Members of the Church and their Diſſenting Brethren, we wiſhed to adopt ſuch

Meaſures, as might reconcile our Regard for them, with the Duty which we owe to our own Congregations.

Accordingly, amicable Conferences were propoſed, which unhappily ended without the deſired effect.

Encouraged notwithſtanding to perſevere in our Duty, we have been ſo fortunate as to recover many of our People, by the moſt upright and honourable Means.

For it is but Juſtice to Ourſelves to obſerve, that throughout the whole of this Affair, our only Object has been to *defend*, not to *invade*; as we have made it an invariable Rule, never to break in upon the Diſſenting Congregations, determined, as we are, to reſiſt every Encroachment upon our own.

Such has been the Conduct we have purſued, ſuch are the Principles upon which we have acted; and greatly as we lament the preſent Miſunderſtanding between the Members of the Church and the Diſſenters,

we

we feel that Degree of Confidence, which ariſes from Truth, in laying theſe Particulars before the Public. To their impartial Judgment we appeal, and leave them to determine what Regard is to be paid to the Aſſertions of a Man, who makes no ſcruple of advancing the moſt notorious Untruths, and expects them to gain Credit from the bold and unbluſhing Aſſurance, with which He publiſhes them to the World.

*R. Miller*, Vicar
*H. Laugharne* Curate } of *St. Nicholas.*

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P. S. WHEREAS *Mr. Field*, in his Letter to the *Printer* of the *Birmingham Gazette*, takes Notice of a Report, and argues upon the Suppoſition of its being true, that the Biſhop of the Dioceſe has ſent a Letter to the Members of the Church, *juſtifying the Diſſenters, and recommending a Diſcontinuance of Proceedings againſt them*; The Gentlemen of the Committee appointed to ſupport the Eſtabliſhed Church in this Borough, do hereby publickly declare, that the Biſhop has *not*, in any Letter ſent to them, or any one elſe to their Knowledge, *diſapproved of the Conduct of the Members of the Church, recommended a Diſcontinuance of their Proceedings, or juſtified the Diſſenters*,

By Order of the Committee.
*W. Daniel*, Chairman.

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